# The occurrence of the solitary wasp Pterochilus phaleratus Panz. in the Scandinavian countries (Hym. Eumenidae)

By Stellan Erlandsson

This solitary wasp is one of our rare species. As it is living in special biotope, only sandy ground, the prospect of finding *Pterochilus* is very limited.

During some warm and sunny days in the beginning of August 1967 I had the opportunity to make excursions in the surroundings of Old Skagen (Jutland). Not far from the hotel where I was living I discovered a female of *Pterochilus phaleratus*. She flew on a little limited area inside a sunny dunehill which was partly overgrown with *Hieracium umbellatum*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Galium verum*, *Thymus serpyllum*, single specimens of *Jasione montana* and *Euphrasia* sp. Fig. 1 shows a view of the locality. During three days I made extensive excursions but it was only on this locality I found this wasp. Further females were captured partly flying, partly sitting on the ground. Males were captured visiting the flowers of *Thymus* and *Hieracium*. Except these captured individuals I observed a few other males and females.

Pterochilus lives in colonies, and I saw several females flying close above the ground, but in spite of intense search no nest was discovered. Nor did I observe any capture of booty. Jansson (1922 p. 26—28) made interesting observations of Pterochilus on a locality at Hornsjön situated in the northern part of the island of Öland. But unfortunately Jansson's observations were written in Swedish and thus passed unnoticed by foreign scientists. Blüthgen (1961) only knows of Alfken's (1914) and Nielsen's (1932) observations.

Blüthgen (1961) does not know of any observations concerning parasitic animals living on *Pterochilus phaleratus*. Jansson (1922 p. 54), however, mentions that he found the chrysidid *Spinola unicolor* at the same time and supposes that this species can be a parasite of *Pterochilus phaleratus*. On the locality at Old Skagen I captured two specimens of *Spinola unicolor*. My observations and Jansson's do indicate that *Spinola unicolor* is a parasite of *Pterochilus phaleratus*. Linsenmaier (1959 p. 86) mentions that other species of the genus *Spinola* are parasites of solitary wasps (*Odynerus*).

Concerning the distribution of *Pterochilus phaleratus* in the Scandinavian countries (Fig. 2) I refer to the list of localities. The localities along the coast of the Baltic Sea were received partly from Paul (1943), Möschler (1939), Wagner (1937), partly from Dr. E. Königsmann (Berlin). I have no localities from the Baltic countries of USSR, but as there are suitable grounds



Fig. 1. Locality of *Pterochilus phaleratus* Panz., Old Skagen (Jutland) 7/8 1967. Photo author.

inter alia along the coast, searching probably will be positive, especially as *Pterochilus phaleratus* has been captured in districts which earlier belonged to Finland.

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## Sweden

## Denmark

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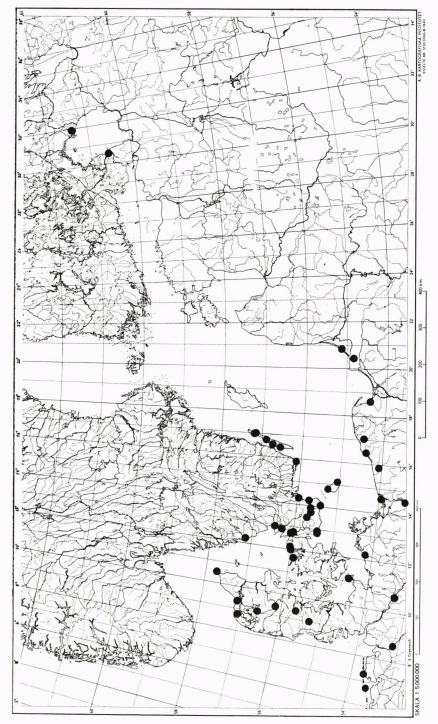


Fig. 2. Distribution of Pterochilus phaleratus Panz. in Fennoscandia and adjacent countries at the Baltic. Original.

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Haarup. Randböl Hede, Grindsted 11/6 1964  $\cap{Q}$  R.H.E., 13/6-64  $\cap{O}$  R.Hg. Stenback 13/7 1943  $\cap{Q}$  J. G. Worm-Hansen. — Bornholm. Sandvig 1958  $\cap{Q}$   $\cap{O}$ , Balka 1958  $\cap{Q}$   $\cap{O}$  S. Erlandsson (Erlandsson 1963).

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